

JOHN CROOK



John Crook was born October 11, 1831, in Trenton, Lancashire, England. He married Mary Giles, September 6, 1856. John died March 31, 1921, at the age of 89, one of the stalwart builders of the valley.

John Crook, together with Robert Holden, were baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in the spring of 1847. John was baptized by Uncle Peter

Mayho in the Brook of Hallith Wood. On January 1, 1851, he left Old England for America, arriving in Salt Lake City August 15, 1856. In his diary he relates many interesting incidents of the trip to America, the good times and the hard times. He was an ice peddler when he decided to come to Utah with the Giles family (William Giles). Mary, a member of the Giles family, later became his wife. They came to Utah in the E. B. Tripps company. He married Mary Giles September 6, 1856, in Provo City. In June, 1859, the west half of Heber was laid off in city lots, and in July he moved camp to that city and commenced hauling logs and building a house. When Wasatch Stake was organized, July 5, 1877, and Heber was divided into East and West Wards, John Crook was chosen first counselor to Bishop William Forman of the Heber West Ward. He was especially interested in music, genealogy and history, and was considered one of Wasatch County's best historians. He was the first choir leader in Heber. His vocation was farming and stock raising, and he was the owner of the first red sandstone quarries in this area.

Mary Giles Crook was born April 13, 1833, in Calvertson, Nottinghamshire, England, to William Giles and Sarah Huskinson. She died September 5, 1888.

Mary Giles Crook was married about a month after their arrival in Utah. She and John Crook were married by Bishop Jonathan O. Duke, Sr. Their first home was a covered wagon box, their next home was a two-room adobe house. The winters of '56 and '57 were very severe and the snow was very deep. Her husband, John, hauled willows from the river bottoms for firewood. Sometimes while working he would sink up to his armpits in the snow. In the fall of 1856, wheat was scarce and flour was \$6 per hundredweight. She, like many other pioneer women, had to grind the wheat by hand in the little coffee mill. In November of '59 a baby girl came to the home of John and Mary Crook. They named her Sarah Elizabeth. This was the second child born in the valley. The home was built in the fort, thus protecting them from the Indians. After leaving the fort they built a three-room log house, later a red sandstone home, which is still standing and is occupied by a granddaughter, Mabel

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Crook Lyon. The sandstone was from John's quarry, five miles east of town. At the time of the diphtheria epidemic she went into the homes and helped care for the sick and dying. She acted as a counselor in the Relief Society to President Katie Forman.

Children: John William, Mrs. John Carlile (Sarah Elizabeth), Heber Giles, George and Franklin (both died in infancy), Mrs. Jonathan O. Duke (Mary Jane), Thomas Huskinson, Frederick, and Mrs. Joseph Callister (Margaret Ann).

*See "History of Wasatch Co"
by John Crook*



JOHN CROOK
Original Settler and Early Historian

